II.   CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1.-39. (Cancelled)

40.   (Currently amended) A method for reducing visual artefacts in a digital image comprising a plurality of image blocks in which image blocks are encoded to form encoded image blocks and said encoded image blocks are subsequently decoded to form decoded image blocks, each decoded image block comprising a number of reconstructed pixels, each reconstructed pixel having an associated pixel value and filtering is performed to reduce visual artefacts due to a boundary between a current decoded image block and a previously decoded image block adjacent to the current decoded image block such that the pixel value of at least one reconstructed pixel in at least one of said current decoded image block and said previously decoded image block is modified by filtering to produce a modified pixel value, wherein said modified pixel value is made available for use in ~~filtering and / or~~ INTRA prediction of ~~a pixel value in~~ an image block ~~to be subsequently encoded or decoded~~ within the same image as said current decoded image block and said previously decoded image block.

41. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 40, ~~characterized in that said~~wherein encoding of an image block to form an encoded image block is performed using motion compensated prediction ~~of at least one pixel value~~ with respect to a reference image using said modified pixel value.

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42. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 41, ~~characterized in that said~~wherein decoding of an encoded image block to form a decoded image block is performed using motion compensated prediction ~~of at least one pixel value~~ with respect to a reference image using said modified pixel value.

43. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 40, ~~characterized in that said~~wherein encoding of an image block to form an encoded image block is performed using intra prediction ~~of at least one pixel value~~ with reference to a previously encoded and subsequently decoded image block of the digital image using said modified pixel value.

44. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 4<u>0</u>, ~~characterized in that said~~wherein decoding of an encoded image block to form a decoded image block is performed using intra prediction ~~of at least one pixel value~~ with reference to a previously encoded and subsequently decoded image block of the digital image using said modified pixel value.

45. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 40, ~~characterized in that said~~wherein modification of the value of at least one reconstructed pixel in at least one of said current decoded image block and said previously decoded image block by filtering is performed immediately after the current decoded image block is formed and a boundary exists between

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said current decoded image block and said previously decoded
image block.

46.   (Currently amended) A method according to claim 40,
~~characterized in that the~~ wherein filtering to reduce visual
artefacts due to a boundary between a current decoded image
block and a previously decoded image block adjacent to the
current decoded image block is performed before all blocks of
the digital image are decoded.

47.   (Currently amended) A method according to claim 40,
~~characterized in that it is~~ wherein ~~determined whether more~~
~~than one boundary exists between said current decoded image~~
~~block and previously decoded image blocks, wherein if more~~
~~than one boundary exists, then~~ filtering is performed ~~on said~~
~~more than one boundary available for filtering to reduce~~
~~visual artefacts due to said more than one boundary~~ to reduce
visual artefacts due to more than one boundary between the
current decoded image block and previously decoded image
blocks adjacent to the current decoded image block.

48.   (Currently amended) A method according to claim 47,
~~characterized in that~~ wherein filtering to reduce visual
artefacts due to said more than one boundary is performed
sequentially on said more than one boundary in a certain
boundary scanning order.

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49.   (Currently amended) A method according to claim 48, ~~characterized in that~~wherein the order of filtering boundaries is selected such that a boundary to the left of the current decoded image block is filtered before a boundary to the top of the current decoded image block.

50. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 40, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein filtering to reduce visual artefacts due to a boundary between a current decoded image block and a previously decoded image block adjacent to the current decoded image block is performed during encoding of said image blocks in an image encoder to form encoded image blocks and further during decoding of said encoded image blocks in a corresponding image decoder, and the order of filtering boundaries used during decoding is the same as that during encoding.

51. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 40, ~~characterized in that~~wherein said modified pixel value is used when filtering is performed to reduce visual artefacts due to at least one other boundary between decoded image blocks.

52. (Currently amended) A method for reducing visual artefacts in a digital image comprising a plurality of image blocks, which are grouped into macroblocks, in which image blocks are encoded to form encoded image blocks and said encoded image blocks are subsequently decoded to form decoded image blocks,

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each decoded image block comprising a number of reconstructed pixels, each reconstructed pixel having an associated pixel value and filtering is performed to reduce visual artefacts due to a boundary between a current decoded image block and a previously decoded image block adjacent to the current decoded image block such that the pixel value of at least one reconstructed pixel in at least one of said current decoded image block and said previously decoded image block is modified by filtering to produce a modified pixel value, wherein the digital image is filtered macroblock by macroblock according to a certain macroblock scanning order and that said modified pixel value is made available for use in ~~filtering and/or~~ INTRA prediction of ~~a pixel value in~~ an image block ~~to be subsequently encoded or decoded~~ within the same image as said current decoded image block and said previously decoded image block.

53. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 52, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein filtering to reduce visual artefacts due to a boundary between a current decoded image block and a previously decoded image block adjacent to the current decoded image block in a macroblock earlier in the macroblock scanning order is performed before filtering to reduce visual artefacts due to a boundary between a current decoded image block and a previously decoded image block adjacent to the current decoded image block in a macroblock later in the macroblock scanning order.

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54. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 52, ~~characterized in that~~wherein filtering to reduce visual artefacts due to a boundary between a current decoded image block and a previously decoded image block adjacent to the current decoded image block is performed for all boundaries within a macroblock before filtering to reduce visual artefacts is performed within the next macroblock in the macroblock scanning order.

55. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 40, ~~characterized in that~~wherein the digital image comprises at least one segment of image blocks and ~~that~~ only boundaries between adjacent decoded image blocks that belong to the same segment are filtered.

56. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 40, ~~characterized in that~~wherein the digital image comprises a luminance component and at least one chrominance component, and ~~that~~ filtering is performed to reduce visual artefacts due to a boundary between a current decoded image block and a previously decoded image block adjacent to the current decoded image block in at least one of said luminance component and said at least one chrominance component.

57. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 40, ~~characterized in that~~wherein the digital image comprises at least a first colour component and a second colour component,

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and ~~that~~ filtering is performed to reduce visual artefacts due
to a boundary between a current decoded image block and a
previously decoded image block adjacent to the current decoded
image block in at least one of the first colour component and
the second colour component.

58. (Currently amended) An encoder for encoding a digital image
comprising a plurality of image blocks, the encoder comprising
means for encoding image blocks to form encoded image blocks
and means for subsequently decoding said encoded image blocks
to form decoded image blocks, each decoded image block
comprising a number of reconstructed pixels, each
reconstructed pixel having an associated pixel value, the
encoder comprising a filter for reducing visual artefacts due
to a boundary between a current decoded image block and a
previously decoded image block adjacent to the current decoded
image block, said filter being arranged to modify the pixel
value of at least one reconstructed pixel in at least one of
said current decoded image block and said previously decoded
image block by filtering to produce a modified pixel value,
wherein the encoder is arranged to make said modified pixel
value available for use in ~~filtering and/or~~ INTRA prediction
of ~~a pixel value in~~ an image block ~~to be subsequently encoded~~
within the same image as said current decoded image block and
said previously decoded image block.

59. (Currently amended) An encoder according to claim 58,
~~characterized in that~~wherein said means for encoding ~~an~~ image
block__s__ to form ~~a__encoded image block__s__ ~~comprises means for~~is

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arranged to form an encoded image block by performing motion compensated prediction ~~of at least one pixel value~~ with respect to a reference image using said modified pixel value.

60. (Currently amended) An encoder according to claim 58, ~~characterized in that~~wherein said means for encoding ~~an~~ image blocks to form ~~an~~ encoded image blocks ~~comprises means for~~is arranged to form an encoded image block by performing intra prediction ~~of at least one pixel value~~ with reference to a previously encoded and subsequently decoded image block of the digital image using said modified pixel value.

61. (Currently amended) An encoder according to claim 58, ~~characterized in that~~wherein said filter is arranged to modify the value of at least one reconstructed pixel in at least one of said current decoded image block and said previously decoded image block immediately after the current decoded image block is formed and a boundary exists between said current decoded image block and said previously decoded image block.

62. (Currently amended) An encoder according to claim 58, ~~characterized in that~~wherein said filter is arranged to reduce visual artefacts due to more than one boundary between said current decoded image block and ~~at least one other~~ previously decoded image blocks adjacent to the current decoded image block.

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63. (Currently amended) An encoder according to claim 62, ~~characterized in that~~wherein the filter is arranged to reduce | visual artefacts due to said more than one boundary by filtering the boundaries sequentially in a certain boundary scanning order.

64. (Currently amended) An encoder according to claim 58, ~~characterized in that~~wherein the filter is arranged to use | said modified pixel value when reducing visual artefacts due to at least one other boundary between decoded image blocks.

65. (Currently amended) An encoder for encoding a digital image comprising a plurality of image blocks which are grouped into macroblocks, each macroblock comprising a certain number of image blocks, the encoder comprising means for encoding image blocks to form encoded image blocks and means for subsequently decoding said encoded image blocks to form decoded image blocks, each decoded image block comprising a number of reconstructed pixels, each reconstructed pixel having an associated pixel value, the encoder comprising a filter for reducing visual artefacts due to a boundary between a current decoded image block and a previously decoded image block adjacent to the current decoded image block, said filter being | arranged to modify the pixel value of at least one reconstructed pixel in at least one of said current decoded image block and said previously decoded image block by filtering to produce a modified pixel value, wherein the

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~~encoder~~filter is arranged to ~~encode and subsequently decode~~filter the image macroblock by macroblock according to a certain macroblock scanning order~~,~~ and ~~that~~ the encoder is arranged to make said modified pixel value available for use in ~~filtering and/or~~ INTRA prediction of ~~a pixel value in~~ an image block ~~to be subsequently encoded~~ within the same image as said current decoded image block and said previously decoded image block.

66. (Currently amended) An encoder according to claim 65, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the filter is arranged to reduce visual artefacts due to a boundary between a current decoded image block and a previously decoded image block adjacent to the current decoded image block in a macroblock earlier in the macroblock scanning order before reducing visual artefacts due to a boundary between a currently decoded image block and a previously decoded image block adjacent to the current decoded image block in a macroblock later in the ~~macroblock block~~ scanning order.

67. (Currently amended) An encoder according to claim 65, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the filter is arranged to reduce visual artefacts due to boundaries between decoded image blocks within a current macroblock in the macroblock scanning order before reducing visual artefacts due to boundaries within the next macroblock in the macroblock scanning order.

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68. (Currently amended) An encoder according to claim 65, ~~characterized in that it is~~ further arranged to encode and subsequently decode the image blocks of a macroblock in a certain block scanning order.

69. (Currently amended) An encoder according to claim 65, ~~characterized in that it is~~ further arranged to encode and subsequently decode all the image blocks of a given macroblock in the macroblock scanning order before encoding and subsequently decoding the image blocks of the next macroblock in the macroblock scanning order.

70. (Currently amended) An encoder according to claim 65, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the filter is arranged to reduce visual artefacts due to boundaries between decoded image blocks of a macroblock by filtering, according to said block scanning order substantially immediately after each encoded image block is decoded to form a current decoded image block and a boundary exists between the current decoded image block and a previously decoded image block adjacent to the current decoded image block.

71. (Currently amended) An encoder according to claim 65, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the filter is arranged to reduce visual artefacts due to more than one boundary between said current decoded image block and ~~at least one other~~ previously

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decoded image block<u>s adjacent to the current decoded image blocks</u>.

72. (Currently amended) An encoder according to claim 71, ~~characterized in that~~ <u>wherein</u> the filter is further arranged to reduce visual artefacts due to said more than one boundary by filtering the boundaries sequentially in a certain boundary scanning order.

73. (Currently amended) An encoder according to claim 58, ~~characterized in that~~<u>wherein</u> the digital image comprises at least one segment of image blocks and ~~that~~ the filter is arranged to reduce visual artefacts due to boundaries between adjacent decoded image blocks that belong to the same segment.

74. (Currently amended) An encoder according to claim 58, ~~characterized in that~~ <u>wherein</u> the digital image comprises a luminance component and at least one chrominance component~~,~~ and ~~that~~ the filter is arranged to reduce visual artefacts due to a boundary between a current decoded image block and a previously decoded image block adjacent to the current decoded image block in at least one of said luminance component and said at least one chrominance component.

75. (Currently amended) An encoder according to claim 58, ~~characterized in that~~ <u>wherein</u> the digital image comprises at

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least a first colour component and a second colour component, and that the filter is arranged to reduce visual artefacts due to a boundary between a current decoded image block and a previously decoded image block adjacent to the current decoded image block in at least one of the first colour component and the second colour component.

76. (Currently amended) A decoder for decoding an encoded digital image, said encoded digital image comprising a plurality of encoded image blocks and having been formed by encoding a digital image comprising a plurality of image blocks, the decoder comprising means for decoding said encoded image blocks to form decoded image blocks, each decoded image block comprising a number of reconstructed pixels, each reconstructed pixel having an associated pixel value, the decoder comprising a filter for reducing visual artefacts due to a boundary between a current decoded image block and a previously decoded image block adjacent to the current decoded image block, said filter being arranged to modify the pixel value of at least one reconstructed pixel in at least one of said current decoded image block and said previously decoded image block by filtering to produce a modified pixel value, wherein the decoder is arranged to make said modified pixel value available for use in filtering and/or INTRA prediction of a pixel value in an image block to be subsequently decoded within the same image as said current decoded image block and said previously decoded image block.

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77. (Currently amended) A decoder according to claim 76, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said means for decoding ~~an~~ encoded image block~~s~~ to form ~~a~~ decoded image block~~s~~ ~~comprises means for~~is arranged to form a decoded image block by performing motion compensated prediction ~~of at least one pixel value~~ with respect to a reference image using said modified pixel value.

78. (Currently amended) A decoder according to claim 76, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said means for decoding ~~an~~ encoded image block~~s~~ to form ~~a~~ decoded image block~~s~~ ~~comprises means for~~is arranged to form a decoded image block by performing intra prediction ~~of at least one pixel value~~ with reference to a previously encoded and subsequently decoded image block of the digital image using said modified pixel value.

79. (Currently amended) A decoder according to claim 76, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said filter is arranged to modify the value of at least one reconstructed pixel in at least one of said current decoded image block and said previously decoded image block immediately after the current decoded image block is formed and a boundary exists between said current decoded image block and said previously decoded image block.

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80. (Currently amended) A decoder according to claim 76, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said filter is arranged to reduce visual artefacts due to more than one boundary between said current decoded image block and ~~at least one other~~ previously decoded image block<u>s adjacent to the current decoded image block</u>.

81. (Currently amended) A decoder according to claim 80, ~~characterized in that~~ <u>wherein</u> the filter is arranged to reduce visual artefacts due to said more than one boundary by filtering the boundaries sequentially in a certain boundary scanning order.

82. (Currently amended) A decoder according to claim 76, ~~characterized in that~~ <u>wherein</u> the filter is arranged to use said modified pixel value when reducing visual artefacts due to at least one other boundary between decoded image blocks.

83. (Currently amended) A decoder for decoding an encoded digital image, said encoded digital image comprising a plurality of encoded image blocks and having been formed by encoding a digital image comprising a plurality of image blocks, which are grouped into macroblocks, each macroblock comprising a certain number of image blocks, the decoder comprising means for decoding ~~said~~ encoded image blocks to form decoded image blocks, each decoded image block comprising a number of reconstructed pixels, each reconstructed pixel

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having an associated pixel value, the decoder comprising a filter for reducing visual artefacts due to a boundary between a current decoded image block and a previously decoded image block adjacent to the current decoded image block, said filter being arranged to modify the pixel value of at least one reconstructed pixel in at least one of said current decoded image block and said previously decoded image block by filtering to produce a modified pixel value, wherein the ~~decoder~~filter is arranged to ~~decode~~filter the image macroblock by macroblock according to a certain macroblock scanning order, and ~~that~~ the decoder is arranged to make said modified pixel value available for use in ~~filtering and/or~~ INTRA prediction of ~~a pixel value in~~ an image block ~~to be subsequently decoded~~ within the same image as said current decoded image block and said previously decoded image block.

84. (Currently amended) A decoder according to claim 83, ~~characterized in that~~wherein the filter is arranged to reduce visual artefacts due to a boundary between a current decoded image block and a previously decoded image block adjacent to the current decoded image block in a macroblock earlier in the macroblock scanning order before reducing visual artefacts due to a boundary between a current decoded image block and a previously decoded image block adjacent to the current decoded image block in a macroblock later in the macroblock scanning order.

85. (Currently amended) A decoder according to claim 83, ~~characterized in that~~wherein the filter is arranged to reduce

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visual artefacts due to boundaries between decoded image blocks with a current macroblock in the macroblock scanning order before reducing visual artefacts due to boundaries within the next macroblock in the macroblock scanning order.

86. (Currently amended) A decoder according to claim 83, wherein ~~the image blocks of a macroblock are encoded by an encoder according to a certain block scanning order, characterized in that~~ the decoder is further arranged to decode the encoded image blocks of a macroblock ~~according to said~~in a certain block scanning order.

87. (Currently amended) A decoder according to claim 83, ~~characterized in that it is~~ further arranged to decode all the encoded image blocks of a given macroblock in the macroblock scanning order before decoding the encoded image blocks of the next macroblock in the macrolock sacnning order.

88. (Currently amended) A decoder according to claim 83, ~~characterized in that~~wherein the filter is arranged to reduce visual artefacts due to boundaries between decoded image blocks of a macroblock by filtering, according to said block scanning order substantially immediately after each encoded image block is decoded to form a current decoded image block and a boundary exists between the current decoded image block and a previously decoded image block adjacent to the current decoded image block.

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89. (Currently amended) A decoder according to claim 88, ~~characterized in that~~wherein the filter is arranged to reduce visual artefacts due to more than one boundary between said current decoded image block and ~~at least one other~~ previously decoded image blocks adjacent to the current decoded image block.

90. (Currently amended) A decoder according to claim 89, ~~characterized in that~~wherein the filter is further arranged to reduce visual artefacts due to said more than one boundary by filtering the boundaries sequentially in a certain boundary scanning order.

91. (Currently amended) A decoder according to claim 76, ~~characterized in that~~wherein the digital image comprises at least one segment of image blocks~~,~~ and ~~that~~ the filter is arranged to reduce visual artefacts due to boundaries between adjacent decoded image blocks that belong to the same segment.

92. (Currently amended) A decoder according to claim 76, ~~characterized in that~~wherein the digital image comprises a luminance component and at least one chrominance component~~,~~ and ~~that~~ the filter is arranged to reduce visual artefacts due to a boundary between a current decoded image block and a previously decoded image block adjacent to the current decoded

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image block in at least one of said luminance component and said at least one chrominance component.

93. (Currently amended) A decoder according to claim 76, ~~characterized in that~~wherein the digital image comprises at least a first colour component and a second colour component, and ~~that~~ the filter is arranged to reduce visual artefacts due to a boundary between a current decoded image block and a previously decoded image block adjacent to the current decoded image block in at least one of the first colour component and the second colour component.

94. (Currently amended) A terminal <u>device</u> comprising ~~at least one of~~ an encoder ~~according to claim 58, an encoder according to claim 65, a decoder according to claim 76 and a decoder according to claim 83~~<u>for encoding a digital image comprising a plurality of image blocks, the encoder comprising means for encoding image blocks to form encoded image blocks and means for subsequently decoding said encoded image blocks to form decoded image blocks, each decoded image block comprising a number of reconstructed pixels, each reconstructed pixel having an associated pixel value, the encoder comprising a filter for reducing visual artefacts due to a boundary between a current decoded image block and a previously decoded image block adjacent to the current decoded image block, said filter being arranged to modify the pixel value of at least one reconstructed pixel in at least one of said current decoded image block and said previously decoded image block by filtering to produce a modified pixel value, wherein the</u>

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encoder is arranged to make said modified pixel value available for use in INTRA prediction of an image block within the same image as said current decoded image block and said previously decoded image block.

95. (Currently amended) A terminal device according to claim 94, ~~characterized in that it~~wherein the terminal device is a mobile terminal.

96. (Currently amended) A terminal according to claim ~~95~~94, ~~characterized in that it~~ wherein the terminal device is a wireless terminal of a mobile communications system.

97. (Currently amended) A storage medium comprising a computer program for operating a computer as an encoder for encoding a digital image comprising a plurality of image blocks, which are grouped into macroblocks, each macroblock comprising a certain number of image blocks, the computer program comprising:

- program code for encoding image blocks to form encoded image blocks;

- program code for subsequently decoding said encoded image blocks to form decoded image blocks, each decoded image block comprising a number of reconstructed pixels, each reconstructed pixel having an associated pixel value;

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- program code for implementing a filter to reduce visual artefacts due to a boundary between a current decoded image block and a previously decoded image block adjacent to the current decoded image block, such that the pixel value of at least one reconstructed pixel in at least one of said current decoded image block and said previously decoded image block is modified by filtering to produce a modified pixel value,

wherein the computer program comprises program code for ~~decoding~~filtering the image macroblock by macroblock according to a certain macroblock scanning order~~,~~ and ~~that~~ the computer program further comprises program code for making said modified pixel value available for use in ~~filtering and/or~~INTRA prediction of ~~a pixel value in~~ an image block ~~to be subsequently encoded~~ within the same image as said current decoded image block and said previously decoded image block.

98. (Currently amended) A storage medium comprising a computer program for operating a computer as a decoder for decoding an encoded digital image, said encoded digital image comprising a plurality of encoded image blocks and having been formed by encoding a digital image comprising a plurality of image blocks which are grouped into macroblocks, each macroblock comprising a certain number of image blocks, the computer program comprising:

- program code for decoding said encoded image blocks to form decoded image blocks, each decoded image block comprising a number of reconstructed pixels, each reconstructed pixel having an associated pixel value;

- program code for implementing a filter to reduce visual artefacts due to a boundary between a current decoded image

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block and a previously decoded image block adjacent to the current decoded image block such that the pixel value of at least one reconstructed pixel in at least one of said current decoded image block and said previously decoded image block is modified by filtering to produce a modified pixel value,

wherein the computer program comprises program code for ~~decoding~~filtering the image macroblock by macroblock according to a certain macroblock scanning order, and that the computer program further comprises program code for making said modified pixel value available for use in ~~filtering and/or~~ INTRA prediction of ~~a pixel value in~~ an image block ~~to be subsequently decoded~~ within the same image as said current decoded image block and said previously decoded image block.

99. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 52, ~~characterized in that~~wherein the digital image comprises at least one segment of image blocks and ~~that~~ only boundaries between adjacent decoded image blocks that belong to the same segment are filtered.

100. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 52, ~~characterized in that~~wherein the digital image comprises a luminance component and at least one chrominance component, and ~~that~~ filtering is performed to reduce visual artefacts due to a boundary between a current decoded image block and a previously decoded image block adjacent to the current decoded image block in at least one of said luminance component and said at least one chrominance component.

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101. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 52, characterized in that~~wherein~~ the digital image comprises at least a first colour component and a second colour component, and ~~that~~ filtering is performed to reduce visual artefacts due to a boundary between a current decoded image block and a previously decoded image block adjacent to the current decoded image block in at least one of the first colour component and the second colour component.

102. (Currently amended) An encoder according to claim 65, ~~characterized in that~~wherein the digital image comprises at least one segment of image blocks, and ~~that~~ the filter is arranged to reduce visual artefacts due to boundaries between adjacent decoded image blocks that belong to the same segment.

103. (Currently amended) An encoder according to claim 65, ~~characterized in that~~wherein the digital image comprises a luminance component and at least one chrominance component, and ~~that~~ the filter is arranged to reduce visual artefacts due to a boundary between a current decoded image block and a previously decoded image block adjacent to the current decoded image block in at least one of said luminance component and said at least one chrominance component.

104. (Currently amended) An encoder according to claim 65, ~~characterized in that~~wherein the digital image comprises at

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least a first colour component and a second colour component, and that the filter is arranged to reduce visual artefacts due to a boundary between a current decoded image block and a previously decoded image block adjacent to the current decoded image block in at least one of the first colour component and the second colour component.

105. (Currently amended) A decoder according to claim 83, characterized in thatwherein the digital image comprises at least one segment of image blocks, and that the filter is arranged to reduce visual artefacts due to boundaries between adjacent decoded image blocks that belong to the same segment.

106. (Currently amended) A decoder according to claim 83, characterized in thatwherein the digital image comprises a luminance component and at least one chrominance component, and that the filter is arranged to reduce visual artefacts due to a boundary between a current decoded image block and a previously decoded image block adjacent to the current decoded image block in at least one of said luminance component and said at least one chrominance component.

107. (Currently amended) A decoder according to claim 83, characterized in thatwherein the digital image comprises at least a first colour component and a second colour component, and that the filter is arranged to reduce visual artefacts due to a boundary between a current decoded image block and a

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previously decoded image block adjacent to the current decoded image block in at least one of the first colour component and the second colour component.

108. (New) A terminal device comprising an encoder for encoding a digital image comprising a plurality of image blocks which are grouped into macroblocks, each macroblock comprising a certain number of image blocks, the encoder comprising means for encoding image blocks to form encoded image blocks and means for subsequently decoding said encoded image blocks to form decoded image blocks, each decoded image block comprising a number of reconstructed pixels, each reconstructed pixel having an associated pixel value, the encoder comprising a filter for reducing visual artefacts due to a boundary between a current decoded image block and a previously decoded image block adjacent to the current decoded image block, said filter being arranged to modify the pixel value of at least one reconstructed pixel in at least one of said current decoded image block and said previously decoded image block by filtering to produce a modified pixel value, wherein the filter is arranged to filter the image macroblock by macroblock according to a certain macroblock scanning order and the encoder is arranged to make said modified pixel value available for use in INTRA prediction of an image block within the same image as said current decoded image block and said previously decoded image block.

109.   (New) A terminal device according to claim 108, wherein the terminal device is a mobile terminal.

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110.   (New) A terminal according to claim 108, wherein the terminal device is a wireless terminal of a mobile communications system.

111. (New) A terminal device comprising a decoder for decoding an encoded digital image, said encoded digital image comprising a plurality of encoded image blocks and having been formed by encoding a digital image comprising a plurality of image blocks, the decoder comprising means for decoding encoded image blocks to form decoded image blocks, each decoded image block comprising a number of reconstructed pixels, each reconstructed pixel having an associated pixel value, the decoder comprising a filter for reducing visual artefacts due to a boundary between a current decoded image block and a previously decoded image block adjacent to the current decoded image block, said filter being arranged to modify the pixel value of at least one reconstructed pixel in at least one of said current decoded image block and said previously decoded image block by filtering to produce a modified pixel value, wherein the decoder is arranged to make said modified pixel value available for use in INTRA prediction of an image block within the same image as said current decoded image block and said previously decoded image block.

112.   (New) A terminal device according to claim 111, wherein the terminal device is a mobile terminal.

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113.   (New) A terminal according to claim 111, wherein the terminal device is a wireless terminal of a mobile communications system.

114. (New) A terminal device comprising a decoder for decoding an encoded digital image, said encoded digital image comprising a plurality of encoded image blocks and having been formed by encoding a digital image comprising a plurality of image blocks, which are grouped into macroblocks, each macroblock comprising a certain number of image blocks, the decoder comprising means for decoding encoded image blocks to form decoded image blocks, each decoded image block comprising a number of reconstructed pixels, each reconstructed pixel having an associated pixel value, the decoder comprising a filter for reducing visual artefacts due to a boundary between a current decoded image block and a previously decoded image block adjacent to the current decoded image block, said filter being arranged to modify the pixel value of at least one reconstructed pixel in at least one of said current decoded image block and said previously decoded image block by filtering to produce a modified pixel value, wherein the filter is arranged to filter the image macroblock by macroblock according to a certain macroblock scanning order and the decoder is arranged to make said modified pixel value available for use in INTRA prediction of an image block within the same image as said current decoded image block and said previously decoded image block.

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115.   (New) A terminal device according to claim 114, wherein the terminal device is a mobile terminal.

116.   (New) A terminal according to claim 114, wherein the terminal device is a wireless terminal of a mobile communications system.

117.   (New) An encoder according to claim 65, wherein the filter is arranged to reduce visual artefacts due to boundaries between decoded image blocks of a macroblock by filtering, according to said block scanning order substantially immediately after each encoded image block is decoded to form a current decoded image block and a boundary exists between the current decoded image block and a previously decoded image block adjacent to the current decoded image block.

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